Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—" May I know whether the Government are aware that, by appointing a Deputy Conservator to be the Personal Assistant to the Chief Conservator of Forests, they are incurring a higher cost than they would have incurred if they had appointed a Deputy Collector ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—" The Government are decidedly of opinion that an officer of the department will make a far more efficient Personal Assistant to the Chief Conservator than a Deputy Collector who knows nothing about the working of the department. "

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—" Am I to understand that the Government knew it only now ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—" The Government learned this by experience. The first Personal Assistant was a Deputy Collector and, after the experience which the Government had, they adopted the present course."

Diwan Bahadur C. S. RATNASABHAPATI MUDALIYAR:—" May I know whether the whole staff of the Conservator's Office is manned by non-forest service men ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—" I am not aware of it, Sir."

Deputation and retirement of Mr. J. W. K. Wernham, late of the Indian Forest Service.

* 245 *Q*.—Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) the actual cost of deputation of Mr. J. W. K. Wernham, late of the Indian Forest Service of this Presidency;

(*b*) on his return from the deputation, whether he was able to do anything for the department as a result of the experience gained by him abroad;

(*c*) when he was deputed and when he retired on proportionate pension;

(*d*) when he applied for retirement, whether the Government did not ask him to refund the cost of his deputation; if not, why not;

(*e*) with reference to the deputation of two forest rangers to the Phillippines some time back, when they were deputed and what the cost of the deputation for each was;

(*f*) whether at the time of the deputation there was a specially appointed Logging Engineer on a salary of Rs. 1,500 and if so, why these rangers were deputed to the Phillippines for training in logging;

(*g*) what are these officers now doing; and

(*h*) who was responsible for their deputation?

A.—(*a*) The cost of the deputation was Rs. 25,384.

(*b*) On his return from the deputation, Mr. J. W. K. Wernham served as the Forest Utilization Officer in which post the experience gained in America was useful to him.

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(c) He went on deputation on 17th July 1924. He retired from service with effect from 2nd January 1931.

(d) No. The Government did not consider the question.

(e) The Rangers were deputed to the Phillippines on 5th September 1928. The cost of the deputation of the officers was Rs. 3,536-5-10 each.

(f) Yes. It was considered desirable that Indians should be given opportunities for training in these subjects so that in course of time they might be able to assume charge of works which were entrusted to officers on special contracts. The training which could be had under the Logging Engineer in Madras who had then only a restricted programme of work was considered insufficient and these officers were deputed so that they might gain broad experience in all methods of extraction and conversion of timber which could be had only in the Phillippines which had successfully adopted the largest hardwood lumbering industry in the world under conditions similar to Madras.

(g) One of the Rangers is in charge of Valparai sleeper project in the South Coimbatore division and the other is under the Forest Engineer in charge of the Nilambur bridge and road works.

(h) The Government sanctioned the deputation on the recommendation of the Chief Conservator of Forests.

Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan:—" May I know the sort of work which this Logging Engineer who has been paid Rs. 1,500 per month has been doing all these years? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar:—" He was engaged in collecting data for mapping and cruising."

Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan:—" Have the Government any report of his work? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar:—" Yes."

Mr. Adbul Hameed Khan:—" Will they be pleased to place it on the table of the House? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar:—" I shall consider the suggestion."

Proposed abolition of the Utilization Branch of the Forest Department.

* 246 *Q.*—Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state whether the Government have considered the question of abolishing the Utilization Branch of the Forest Department and with what result and for what reasons?

A.—The question has not been considered.